State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Cedar Valley Water User:

Dear Water User:

The Division of Water Rights is initiating a mapping effort beginning in 2012, to document actual irrigated acreage in Cedar Valley in comparison with water right records.

In the past, water use in Cedar Valley was monitored by measurement of the surface diversions and also by metering wells to measure groundwater pumped. Maintaining water meters has proved to be problematic, so pumped wells have effectively not been monitored over the past several years. Once the mapping project is completed, ground water use in Cedar Valley will be monitored by mapping irrigated acres according to the limitations described in each water right.

During our mapping effort, the Division will be reviewing irrigation in Cedar Valley using water right records and aerial photos. Once completed, the new method for monitoring groundwater use will be more accurate and will be representative of actual farming efforts in the Cedar Valley area.

In the process of shifting to the new map based monitoring, we will be reviewing the distribution assessment accounts and determine changes that may be needed. There are accounts being added, and in some cases combined with other accounts, based on farm operations. Also some accounts will be dropped.

Since we will be in the process of reviewing water rights against actual irrigated acres, the Division highly recommends that each water user review their water rights of record to insure they are irrigating in conformance with the limits of their water right or make appropriate changes to update their water rights records as necessary to reflect current conditions. Water users operating beyond the limits of their water right may be subject to enforcement actions, which could result in monetary penalties being assessed.

Sincerely,

Mike Silva
Distribution Engineer

Cc: Southwestern Regional office